

EDITORIAL OPINIONS OF THE LEADING JOURNALS UPON CURRENT TOPICS—COMPILED EVERY DAY FOR THE EVENING TELEGRAPH.

There are good, honest people who wonder why so much ado is made about a certain expenditure. "It is only \$5000" (or \$50,000, or \$100,000, as the case may be), they innocently remark; and they cannot see why so small a sum should excite so great a clamor.

TREASURY LEAKS.

From the N. Y. Tribune. There are good, honest people who wonder why so much ado is made about a certain expenditure. "It is only \$5000" (or \$50,000, or \$100,000, as the case may be), they innocently remark; and they cannot see why so small a sum should excite so great a clamor.

The National Republican thus dilates on the failure of Congress to appropriate money wherewith to enlarge the grounds which surround and set off the Capitol:

"The extension of the Capitol grounds ought to have commended itself quite as much to members of Congress, who are never tired of admiring the Capitol building, as to the people of Washington. Every one will concede that the present surroundings of this, the most beautiful and imposing structure in the world, are not in harmony as a setting for such a gem of architecture. The American people are not so entirely wanting in taste and spirit as to stop short, after an expenditure of \$12,000,000 on their greatest and proudest public edifice, to count the trifling expense of placing it in a better frame. As far as the park is concerned, the sum of \$100,000 seems to us, in view of the fact that this is the capital of the nation on the globe, a very small amount to make so much better of it."

—Here, you see, the fact that \$12,000,000 have been lavished on the Capitol is urged as a reason, not for frugality in any quarter, but for spending more in the purchase and fitting up extensive grounds and fitting up of extensive grounds adjacent thereto. Then Washington wants a Park, and remembers that this is "the richest nation on the globe," and so ought to be ashamed of not paying \$100,000 towards such Park, well knowing that millions must follow. It does not occur to the Federal City that people who are heavily taxed for Parks in their own cities, or obliged to go without, should object to being further taxed to make a park whereby the value of Washington lots and houses shall be enhanced at the national cost.

Perhaps we are a rich nation. We certainly have a debt that would ill become a poor one. But we are not so rich that our taxes do not gail us; and, when we have paid for laying out, sewerage, grading, paving, lighting, etc., etc., our own streets, we cannot see why we should be taxed again to render the same good service to the streets of another city and the homes of her people. No, we don't see it.

PHILADELPHIA'S WAY TO COMMERCE.

From the Wilmington (Del.) Commercial. As a manufacturing city Philadelphia is already great, but her press and people long also for commercial greatness. This desire, we believe, may be gratified, and never was there a time more auspicious for successful effort in this direction than the present. Her great rival, New York, is almost throttled by the Thugs who control her municipal government; her business is crippled with lack of public confidence in her commercial honor, caused by the insolent disturbance of her money market by speculative gamblers and financial charlatans; while her carrying trade, to and from the West, has come to be considered the legitimate spoil of warring railroad and canal rings.

Philadelphia's commercial honor, on the other hand, is beyond reproach; her financiers are men of national reputation and known integrity, while her Western carrying trade is in the hands of a giant corporation, which founs its hands with speculating in its own stocks, but confines itself to its legitimate business and brings to the prosecution of that business a far-reaching, comprehensive sagacity which pours the traffic of half a continent over its rails.

But to be a great commercial city, Philadelphia must have foreign trade. Here New York has the inside track, and believes she can keep it forever. Why? Because New York has a good harbor, accessible at all seasons of the year, and Philadelphia has not! Philadelphia, as a rule, either fly into a passion and indignantly deny this fact, or quietly ignore it, in discussing the question of their commercial future. This is not the part of wisdom. There is no commercial future for them until they look this apparently disagreeable fact squarely in the face, and shape their policy accordingly. They must strip themselves of the narrowness and provincialism with which they have too justly been reproached, and extend at once their ideas and their sphere of action. They must regard the Delaware river as a whole, and utilize whatever portion of its magnificent harbor is best adapted for commerce, whether that portion lie within or without their present municipal limits.

We know that such a policy would be at once denounced by many as building up other places with Philadelphia capital without any return to that city, but a little reflection will convince any thinking person that this would not be true. Philadelphia can, if she chooses, forever remain the centre of the trade and commerce of the whole Delaware river region, not on account of her location—for that is probably a mistake—but because she has the start, and has the capital to maintain that advantage. Situation is important, without doubt, but New York's fine harbor did not alone make her the commercial metropolis of the Republic; Norfolk has as good a harbor, and yet she languishes, and Beaufort has a better, it is said, and is little more than a village. New York by canals first, and railroads afterwards, made her harbor the point where the products of the interior most readily met the commerce of the ocean, and became at once the first of American citizens. The other places as well situated had not the energy or the capital necessary to accomplish this, and their greatness is a thing too far in the future to be even a matter of interesting speculation to the people of this generation.

Philadelphia had, however, the energy and the capital to establish as great avenues to the trade of the interior as did New York, and she did it. Her mistake was that she failed to make this inland traffic meet her ocean commerce at the most accessible point, and her commerce died. When she has the courage and the wisdom to correct her mistake that commerce will revive.

All things, at present, combine to give her a magnificent opportunity, and her action in this steamship project will show whether or not she has gained the wisdom to achieve greatness. If she subscribes liberally, if she builds her ships in whatever American yards she can be built best and cheapest, with Pennsylvania's own iron, and if, when her

own harbor is ice locked, she runs them to another, always easily kept free, and many miles nearer the sea, she will take the first and decisive step toward making herself the greatest, as well as the most distinctively American, of American cities.

GREAT AND LITTLE CORPORATIONS.

From the N. Y. World. When Mr. Lemuel Gulliver took his afternoon nap he found himself on waking tied hand and foot, and although each filament was very tiny they sufficed to bind him to the ground, or at least compelled him to struggle to get free. Such just now seems to be, though in varying forms, the awakening of Pennsylvania and Virginia—the one a vigorous, well-fed, plethoric giant, gorged with food; the other an invalid, with blood enfeebled and vigor terribly abated.

Governor Geary starts from his slumbers with an actual shriek. It seems that in those years of placid enjoyment which, since the day when, made bankrupt by a great corporation which she nursed, she refused to pay her interest, have rolled over Pennsylvania, there has been growing up within her borders a crop of bodies politic which, with specious promises to the State of taxes on dividends, and to the citizen of development of resources operating in the transit, have step by step been appropriating to themselves vast and dangerous powers. This rank and poisonous growth has of course been stimulated by the hot competition which protection has heaped about its roots, until at last the combined powers of production and corporate privilege overbear political independence, and the State finds itself helpless at their feet. This, according to the fact as well as Governor Geary's frantic utterances, is exactly the state of things at this moment in Eastern Pennsylvania; and the very sensible though comically lawyer-like letter of his Attorney-General reveals the legislative and judicial contrivances by which, year after year, this has come to pass. When the Legislature limits the tolls the companies get up a little convenient litigation, and the judiciary, in its simplicity, decides that "toll" does not mean "freight;" and so when the time comes, as now, that producing and transit corporations find it to their advantage to combine to crush the industrial interest proper, their powers to do so are found to be illimitable, and the Governor and the Legislature are helpless. This is one of the corporation crises which threaten Pennsylvania. Its sources are the companies operating in the eastern part of the Commonwealth, and mainly those leading to and from the anthracite regions watered by the Schuylkill and the Lehigh. Their power of mischief is not diminished by the concession that they are in the main solvent corporations—the capital in one instance chiefly owned abroad.

But the stertorous slumber of Pennsylvania betrays a heavier nightmare than this. There is a corporation which, unlike the Reading and the Lehigh, entitles, "bestrides no narrow world," but stands over the citizens of a once free commonwealth literally.

"Walk under its huge legs, and peep about to find themselves dishonorable graves." Such is that giant corporation as to which we have more than once uttered words of warning, and as to which Pennsylvania dares not speak. We have said why we are remotely interested, and shall not repeat it. It owns the Legislature, be its politics what it may. If it needs statutory help, it issues an order and it is at once obeyed. If it does not suit its convenience to have these mandatory statutes published in the body of the public laws, they are hidden in an appendix. It has the absolute control of Senators at Washington; and we have at this moment the indecent spectacle of a bill pressed through Congress at the bidding of this corporation to build a bridge across the great river at Cincinnati which the whole Ohio delegation tell us will be fatal to the interests of navigation. Thus conscious of power and thus unchecked, it too, like the pigmy coal companies, takes the tone of defiance, and this too in a way which gives the action an interest of a very wide scope indeed. No one will deny that the maintenance of the public faith of Pennsylvania—its bonds scattered everywhere—is matter of general interest. Thus is it affected.

We are not of those who believe in the magic of sinking funds, or indeed in sinking funds at all. Bad as is Mr. Bontwell's policy, it is better than the mockery of a fund to be made available by and by, and in the meantime to be subject to all manner of risks; but all will agree that if there be a sinking fund it ought not to be sported with. Years ago Pennsylvania created a sinking fund, which now, as near as we understand it, amounts to about \$9,500,000, and was supposed to be invested in safe and available securities. Governor Geary, so believing, recommended its realization and a proportionate debt liquidation. But lo! when it comes to be examined (and this we derive from the report of a committee of the Legislature) it turns out, if not a mere myth—which we are far from asserting—yet a most unavailable and insecure dependence. "Briars" has made "ducks and drakes" of it.

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company years ago bought the public works of Pennsylvania, and paid for them in its own or other mortgage bonds. In the lapse of time it suited them to make a different arrangement, and the receipt was issued, and an act in March, 1861, passed, by which the bonds were merged into some sort of a contract by which the principal debt was turned into a collateral; and now, when the Governor wants to sell, he finds his stocks on hand unmarketable, and the actual debtor to the State—the purchaser for nothing of the public works—master of the position. Now, we are by no means prepared to say that Governor Geary's policy of sale is the wisest, but it is very far beyond our naive comprehension that it should be frustrated by the discovery of the utter unavailability of his assets, and this through the agency and secret manipulations of a creature of the law. When Mr. Attorney-General Brewster comes to examine these statutes (if he is ever allowed to see them) he will find a more desperate state of things than among the coal companies.

This, then, is the great corporation which, governing Pennsylvania, is intruding in New Jersey—whose integrity has thus far proved steady—and boldly invading Virginia. The state of things in Virginia, as represented to us on all sides, is simply deplorable.

THE DUTY OF PRESIDENT GRANT.

From the N. Y. Times. While it is but right and just that great forbearance and charity should be shown in our treatment of those Indian tribes that are disposed to cultivate amicable relations with us, especially as some of them have undoubtedly suffered grievous wrongs at our hands, there are other tribes that deserve no such consideration. We mean those that, without provocation, have always been the unrelenting enemies of the whole white race, and have never omitted an opportunity to practise infernal tortures and cruelties upon

those of our countrymen and countrywomen who have had the misfortune to fall into their hands.

Conspicuous among these cruel and implacable savages are the Apaches, a tribe that may be justly termed the Ishmaelites of America, since they are as deadly foes of the friendly tribes of Indians as they are of the whites themselves. These wretches have, within the last month or two, overrun most of the civilized part of Arizona, not only committing depredations, but the most frightful murders and atrocities upon settlers in places that have been considered safe for years; and they have been allowed to perpetrate these outrages comparatively unchecked. For such inhuman monsters as these should be utterly exterminated from the face of the earth if they cannot be overcome in any better way.

It will be well for President Grant—since Congress will not allow Arizona to be abandoned to the savages—to take immediate measures to afford the pioneers of civilization there adequate protection. The people may be blundered by a policy which, by giving to philanthropists prominent places in connection with Indian affairs without corresponding authority, has served as a cloak for the most scandalous frauds upon the Indians and upon the tax-payers of the country; but such a policy, whether real or only pretended, will not meet the requirements of this emergency. If the President has the power to send a fleet of war vessels, in the interest of a ring of speculators, to overawe a people with whom we are supposed to sustain friendly relations, he can surely order two or three regiments of cavalry to Arizona, in addition to the troops now there, to protect the settlers from the ravages of an enemy as brutal as the fiercest beasts of prey and more relentless.

SHALL CUBA BE DESTROYED?

From the N. Y. Sun. Notwithstanding the assertion so persistently disseminated by the Spanish officials in Cuba that the revolution is on its last legs, a few facts which these same officials have of late carelessly permitted to reach the outer world, through their own organs, completely disprove all their former statements. The celebrated battle which General Jordan won over the Spaniards in Camaguey on New Year's day a year ago has been cast into the shade by more than one recent conflict. More numerous bodies of armed men have been engaged on either side, and the acknowledged loss of the Spanish forces, 160 in one fight, is far greater than any they ever confessed before. The war therefore is progressing, and the executions on both sides prove that it has lost nothing of that ferocious character which more than once since its commencement has caused the civilized world to shudder, and excited discussion in various legislative assemblies.

Some time since President Grant in a message to Congress described this war as an "exterminating" one; and inasmuch as the shooting of prisoners seems to be general, and the sword is not misapplied. Apart from the fearful sacrifice of human life, which there is no conceivable limit short of the extermination of the combatants on one or the other side, the advancing devastation of what was lately one of the most productive of cultivated countries is exciting considerable alarm among other nations. The Spaniards burn and destroy every village or assemblage of huts or clearing from which they drive the Cubans, trusting that the impossibility of obtaining the necessaries of life may induce them to surrender; while the Cubans publicly proclaim that they expect to win their independence as much by the torch as by the sword. It is, they say, only by means of the productions of the soil of Cuba that Spain is enabled to war against its sons.

When the war broke out Cuba was producing, with a population of something less than two millions of people, the value of about two hundred and fifty million dollars a year. The industries of which this enormous sum was the product were about equally divided between the cities and the country, that is to say, between manufacturing and agriculture. Of the thirty million acres which Cuba contains, only some two and a half millions are devoted to sugar cane, tobacco, coffee, and other exportable crops; the remainder consists of pasturage and forests. Of course, the war has greatly diminished the produce of Cuba, and as the island formerly furnished about half of all the sugar made on the globe, it is patent that its value to the outside world has greatly decreased; while it is self-evident that if the war be not stopped, or its character mitigated, the island will ere long be converted into a desert. This war has now been waged for nearly thirty months. How long is Christian civilization to stand coldly by and passively abet it?

International law and public opinion forced England, France, and Russia to interfere in favor of the independence of Greece. What was the duty of the civilized nations of Europe in 1827 in regard to Greece is manifestly the duty of America and Americans to-day in regard to Cuba. Let those politicians, patriots, and pseudo-philanthropists who object to intervention in Cuba on the plea of "manifest destiny," take warning from the condition of devastated and depopulated San Domingo. Since emancipation, tropical agricultural products and the means of their production should be very carefully dealt with. If we wait a little longer, the Cuban pear will be not ripe but rotten when it falls.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

From the N. Y. Times. While Republicans are satisfying themselves that there is no need to talk about the Presidential election just yet, the Democrats, with their usual activity, are leaving no stone unturned to render their preparations for the contest perfect in all directions. Nothing, of course, could suit their plans better than the present attitude of the Republican party. The issue of Free Trade vs. Protection is arraying one section of the party against the other; personal grievances here and there are elevated into national importance; and in the "Empire State" the prospect is particularly encouraging for the Democrats, because they have a large number of leading Republicans in their employment, and can safely reckon on receiving their very best services. It is always an advantage to have spies in the camp of the enemy. There is probably no Democrat extant who has the least doubt about which way New York will go in the Presidential election. What they cannot get by their own strength they expect to gain through the feuds of their adversaries.

The South, it is confidently anticipated, will go bodily for Tammany, and money will be freely poured into that quarter as soon as the signal is given from headquarters. Active exertions are already being made in the West, and several new journals have been started for the purpose of getting the exalted truth into the minds of the people that John T. Hoffman is the only

man who can really save the country. The tax-payers of New York kindly provide the money for this great missionary enterprise. No one supposes that the money raised here is devoted to the service of the public—if it were, we should not be able to boast of having the worst paved and the worst lit streets in the civilized world. Some of this money goes to enrich ex-bankrupt chair-makers and adventurers from "ould Ireland," and a part of it is prudently devoted to the consolidation of the new power which has been built up among us during the last few years. No one can fail to see that it would be a capital investment for the Democrats to spend a few millions in winning the next contest for the Presidency. With Hoffman in the White House, it is very difficult to say what might not be done for the elevation of mankind. The system under which New York is governed, and which gives so much satisfaction to the *Evening Post* and many respectable citizens, might then be applied to the nation at large, and the blessings of free government be for the first time enjoyed, and the regeneration of the species finally accomplished. Where there are now two or three corrupt judges there might be soon two or three scores, and a state of things would arise to which the annals of Rome in its later days would afford no parallel. This is naturally an inspiring thought for any true Democrat, as Democrats go nowadays, and we cannot wonder that the party is extremely well pleased to see Republicans saying with Dr. Watts' sluggard, "You have woke me too soon, let me slumber again." Under our new patron saint, the blessed Saint Patrick himself (whose life has been most obligingly forwarded to our office, as one step toward converting the heathen), we may confidently look for an era of which George Washington and other old-fashioned patriots never dreamed.

In the meantime, however, we hope there are some people here and there who will keep their attention fixed on what is going on in several parts of the country. As Democratic principles once more gain ascendancy in the South, the spirit of 1861 is reviving. The nearer the Democrats approach to power the more is the South disposed to shake off the incubus which the war left upon it. Let Hoffman be elected, and the work of Union men will be undone as fast as local circumstances will permit. There is not much excuse for our deceiving ourselves on this score. "The war is not over," cried the Rebels and their sympathizers in 1865, and we may be pretty sure they meant what they said. They are already giving us a taste of what we may expect when Republican apathy and Republican quarrels have allowed Hoffman to slip into the President's chair. In our opinion, the country needs the Republican party now as much as it did during the years of the war, but we are aware that this opinion is not shared by many Republican leaders. It is a suicidal policy for Republicans to go on hacking each other with their own weapons, but then it happens to be the policy much in vogue just now, and of course the Democrats are very eager to pat the combatants on the back. There are many Republicans to-day who would prefer the Democrats and free trade to their own party and protection. There are others who think that the whole duty of man in the present year of grace is to keep up a constant nagging at President Grant. It is all very fine to say that the "heart" of the country is "sound," but great causes have ere now been entirely ruined by a much smaller degree of carelessness and indifference to public questions than we now find prevailing. If Senator Sumner would give us his views on this subject, he might do greater service, and act more in accordance with the high reputation which he enjoys, than by concentrating all his thoughts on San Domingo.

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